

A Level ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHAT WILL I DO?

In A level English Literature you will study a variety of texts, working individually, in small groups and with the whole class - depending on what topic you are studying. You will be expected to read plays, novels and poetry of many different kinds as well as doing work which addresses other media forms and texts.

Course Structure

The course is divided between the first year (AS) and the final year (A2).

In the first year you will study a novel and a range of poetry and drama texts. You will also develop a variety of literary critical skills.

If you opt to continue studying for a full 'A' Level in English Literature, during the second year you will cover a wider range of texts from different periods in the history of English literature, including Shakespeare.

Assessment

In each year the assessment will be split between 30% Coursework and 70% Examination

LEARNING

Much class activity centres around discussion. You will be expected to participate in small group discussions and to contribute to whole group sessions. Reading is important, as is an openness to new ideas and fresh approaches to thinking about important issues. Some of your learning will be self directed, some of it will be done in co-operation with other students, some will be led by your teachers.

There will be the opportunity to attend lectures, workshops and conferences on a variety of topics.

PROGRESSION

As well as leading to a Literature degree, the skills A level Literature teaches you lead naturally to degrees in Journalism, Media Studies, Communication Studies, Law, Cultural Studies, Education, etc.

To prospective employers it indicates you have the confidence and ability to express your ideas orally and in written work and that you possess analytical skills.

Here are some comments made by A level English Literature Students:

“English Literature is a very worthwhile subject if you enjoy discussing and analysing different types of texts and looking at them from new perspectives.”

“The skills learned in English Literature are also beneficial to many other A level subjects.”

“I find English Literature very interesting as such a wide diversity of topics is covered, often leading to productive discussions.”

“It teaches you new ways to look at texts, from classics such as Wuthering Heights to the portrayal of women in modern texts.”

“In depth discussions of controversial issues, poems, plays and novels looked at from all angles, traditional and modern texts, interesting, enjoyable discussions ...”